



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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July 12, 2006

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Keith Higman, Chair, Environmental Health Committee

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED BOARD BRIEFINGS ON SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES**

Summary

At last month's meeting, the State Board of Health accepted a recommendation from staff of the Department of Health and the Board to slow the school rule revision process to allow time for additional study and for further consideration of comments received on the first discussion draft.

The Board asked staff to develop a more specific proposal for a series of study sessions on school environmental health and safety issues. The requested proposal is attached. It calls for presentations at the regular October and December 2006 Board meetings, as well as a special daylong study session on November 8, 2006 in the Seattle area. Staff of the Department and the Board will work with other agencies and stakeholders to develop a briefing package for the Board that looks at the authorities and activities of various agencies. A major goal will be to identify areas where the combined activities of the various agencies leave gaps in protections for children at school. Identifying these gaps could help the Board determine what needs to be included in its rule, where other entities are best suited to address a particular gap, and what other policy changes the Board might recommend.

Ned Therien, Board staff, will describe the proposal. Please note the material behind Tab 13 for this presentation. Gregg Grunenfelder, assistant secretary for the Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health, is also here to be available to address questions.

Recommended Board Action

No formal action is being requested at this time. The proposed schedule of briefings may change as the Board and Department work with various agencies and stakeholder groups to develop the study sessions over the next few months. At this point, I am requesting review and comment, and a general sense of the Board about whether staff should proceed as proposed.